

The Senate

State of Iowa
Ninety-First General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Office of Auditor of State
Room 111
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

To Auditor Rob Sand:

With each and every day, we, along with our colleagues, are becoming more and more alarmed at the information coming to light regarding former Des Moines Public Schools Superintendent Ian Roberts. It is clear he deceived many, including the school board, students, teachers, and parents not just in the state of Iowa, but in school districts across the country.

For Fiscal Year 2025, Des Moines Public Schools received over \$460 million for the education of Des Moines metro-area students by Iowa taxpayers. Comparatively, Iowa's education savings account (ESA) program is projected to cost the state a little over \$314 million for students all across the state – not just in the Des Moines area.

Given your continued interest in the education savings account program and its cost, we believe you and your office should be far more concerned about the hundreds of millions of dollars overseen by a superintendent with an ever-increasing list of deceptions and fraud. We are asking you to conduct an audit of the Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) system and ensure the money invested by Iowa taxpayers into the education of students in this district is being spent and allocated where it is supposed to be. You have said publicly how interested you are in conducting an audit of the ESA program and we believe, with even greater budget amounts, the DMPS budget deserves the attention of the auditor of the state.

News is coming out every day regarding Ian Roberts and his lies, deceits and background discrepancies. You, as the state's auditor, who claims to be the taxpayer watchdog while politicizing your office and spending more time campaigning for governor than actually focusing on your job, have a duty to that office and to Iowans to focus more of your time on your current job than trying to get the next one. Iowa needs the state auditor to take the time to do the job and help both lawmakers and Iowans as we continue to deal with the consequences of Roberts' deceptions. As senators with duties to pass budgets, implement policy, and hold government accountable, our job includes evaluating the process of retaining individuals to lead public schools and the accountability required to ensure the almost \$4 billion of taxpayer funds are managed by people Iowans can trust.

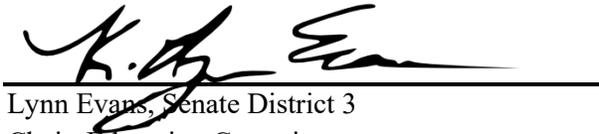
Sincerely,



Jesse Green, Senate District 24
Chair, Education Appropriations Subcommittee



Kerry Gruenhagen, Senate District 41
Chair, Government Oversight Committee



Lynn Evans, Senate District 3
Chair, Education Committee